

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO NAVELECYSTYSCOMHQ WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 017406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ETRN, LI

SUBJECT: OMEGA LIBERIA STATION

REF: MONROVIA 6103

1. PARA 2 REFTTEL INDICATES THAT GOL WANTS TO ADMINISTER CONTRACT WITH A FIRM WHICH WOULD PROVIDE TRAINING TO LIBERIANS DURING FIRST TWO YEARS OF OPERATION AND ALSO UNDERTAKE OPERATION OF STATION FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD AFTER FIRST TWO YEARS, PRESUMABLY UNTIL SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF LIBERIANS FULLY TRAINED. HOWEVER, OMEGA AGREEMENT WITH GOL CLEARLY SPECIFIES (PARAS 3 AND 4) THAT STATION IS TO BE OPERATED JOINTLY BY USG AND GOL. U.S. IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR TRAINING PERSONNEL DESIGNATED BY THE GOL DURING FIRST TWO YEARS OF OPERATION AND ONLY LIBERIANS SO TRAINED

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BY U.S. ARE TO TAKE OVER FROM AMERICANS BY END OF FIRST TWO YEARS OF OPERATION. USE OF ANY OTHER PERSONNEL BY GOL TO

RUN STATION WOULD, UNDER ARTICLE 4, HAVE TO BE SPECIFICALLY AGREED BETWEEN GOL AND USG AT THE END OF FIRST TWO YEARS OF OPERATION.

2. U.S. INTENDS MAKE AND SUPERVISE DIRECTLY CONTRACT FOR TRAINING AND OPERATION DURING FIRST TWO YEARS. THEREAFTER, U.S. ROLE WILL BE LIMITED TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT, AND PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND GOL WILL BE FREE TO EITHER RETAIN SAME CONTRACTOR OR EMPLOY DIRECTLY

LIBERIAN PERSONNEL TRAINED BY THE U.S. IF SAME CONTRACTOR RETAINED, U.S. WOULD PREFER CONTINUE DIRECT PAYMENT TO IT, BUT IN ANY CASE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT MAINTAIN RELATION WITH IT PERMITTING CLOSE MONITORING OF PROJECT'S FINANCES AND OPERATIONS.

3. THERE IS THEREFORE NO LEGAL PROBLEM INVOLVED IN U.S. PAYING STATION EXPENSES DIRECTLY TO GOL OR ONE OF ITS AGENCIES AFTER FIRST TWO YEARS OF STATION OPERATION, IF CONDITIONS IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF AGREEMENT ARE MET. WE RECOGNIZE AND AGREE WITH EMBASSY CONCERNS PARA 3 REFTEL THAT FUNDS PROVIDED BY U.S. BE PROPERLY HANDLED BY GOL. IN ADDITION TO MONITORING THROUGH CONTRACTOR, IF GOL RETAINS IT, WE INTEND, AS USG-GOL OMEGA RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPS, TO USE CONDITION THAT CONGRESS APPROPRIATE FUNDS SPECIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT TO PUSH GOL TO COMPLY WITH U.S. AUDIT PROCEDURES.

4. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A SEPARATE OMEGA AUTHORITY WITHIN GOL BUT SEE NO NEED FOR ONE. KISSINGER

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